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P A P E R S

R E L A T I N G T O

COLONIES AND TRADE.

COLONIES AND TRADE.

THE obtaining the products of the East, and the transporting them in a growing state to the West Indies, has ever been an object of consideration with the Society, and premiums have been from time to time offered for that end. The following papers, therefore, which contain a short history of the introduction of that admired fruit the Mango, into the American Islands, will doubtless be well accepted by the publick. And it is highly pleasing to the Society, that it has fallen to their lot to lay the first well-authenticated account of the introduction of the true Cinnamon Tree into the Island of Jamaica; which, if the account given in the letter from Mr. Wilson admits of a doubt, from the great variety of trees of that species growing in the East, which

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which may perhaps be the *cafe*, yet is rendered certain by a comparison made of the leaf therein mentioned with some of the leaves of the true *Cinnamon*, preserved among the dried specimens in the first botanick collection in this, or perhaps any other kingdom,

The following Account of the Introduction of the Mango Tree, by WALTER MAYNARD, Esq. into the Island of St. Vincent, having been received, Thanks were ordered to that Gentleman for the Communication; and the Society having written to Joshua Steele, Esq. President of the Society of Arts, &c. at Barbados, the Letters on the Culture of the Mango Tree in that Island, which are now inserted, were received; and Thanks for the Communication were ordered, together with Samples of the Hemp and Flax from China, mentioned in Mr. Hoy's Letter (page 35); that, as some of them did not ripen in this Climate, Trials might be made of them in Barbados; and the Event of those Experiments are intended to make part of a future Volume of these Transactions.

A N A R R A T I V E

*Of Facts relative to the propagating the
MANGO TREES, from the
East-Indies, to the West-Indies.*

WALTER MAYNARD, being a native of the Island of Nevis, in the West-Indies, and sailing from Madras, touched at the Island of Bourbon, in his way to Europe; and having tasted the Mangoes of that Island, and finding they were a most delicious fruit, was induced to have some young Mango plants put in pots, with earth, in order, if possible, to plant them in the West-Indies, and was happy enough to meet a West-India packet, at sea, which induced him at that time to go in her to the West-Indies, and was so fortunate as to establish them in the Island of St. Vincent; since which, they have fruited, and are now propagated in almost all the West-India islands.

Mrs.

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Mrs. Jackson, a widow lady, lately of St. Vincent's, will attest this to be a real history of this matter, as her late husband had the first tree that fruited in that Island from the said plants.

WALTER MAYNARD.

N. B. This happened in the year 1770. Doctor Young, of St. Vincent's, was also furnished with one of these Mango Plants, which has borne fruit.

SIR,

AS I think it one of the least returns I can make for the favour you granted us in the Island of St. Vincent, by a present of the Mangoes; I do here attest, and am ready so to do whenever applied to by any gentlemen of the Society, that you brought the plants to the West-Indies, in the year 1770, and perfectly remember it to be in the month of June.

The tree you left, I am sorry to say, was lost in the hurricane we experienced in 1780; but there are now many trees from the seeds of it that will bear this year. There were four plants sent to the King's gardener at Kew, about six years ago, and I am informed one is now living.

I am, SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

ELIZABETH JACKSON.

March 11, 1784.

WALTER MAYNARD, Esq.

SIR,

THE following are all the the circumstances I have been able to collect relative to the history of the old Mango Tree, that is now growing at the Guinea, and which are pretty exact, and may be depended on.

The above Tree was sent up to the plantation in a box, (being about eighteen inches high) by Mr. Edwin Lascelles, about the year 1742 or 43. Our Carpenter, John Thomas, a Mulatto, but a sensible and intelligent man, says, he perfectly remembers his assisting in railing of it round, and was then about twelve years of age ; he is now about fifty-five. He further says, the dwelling was then finished, which appears from other circumstances. Mr. Walker, I am pretty certain, purchased the Guinea, in the year 1756 : the Tree had not then bore any fruit, nor did it bear any for four or

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or five years after, when a Mr. Williams was the overseer, who, as well as I can remember, was employed about the year 1760 (the Negroes reckon time past by the different overseers put over them) : it had however put out blossoms yearly for three years before it fruited ; but by the best accounts, no fruit was produced till about the year 1761, eighteen or nineteen years after it was planted at the Guinea ; and, from its growth then, it may be supposed to be near a twelvemonth from the time the seed was put into the earth.

The three young trees were planted with several others by Mr. Moe's direction ; about three years after, Mr. Rochford had the care of the plantation, and he came to live on it in 1764, not later than 65 ; so that they must have been planted sixteen or seventeen years, and it has not been till this year that blossoms have appeared,
and

and that only on one of them, which is by far the most flourishing and larger of the three: whether fruit will follow the blossoms on the young trees, or drop as in the mother tree, will now soon be determined.

The young trees have not, I believe, increased in their growth, for the time they have been planted, as the original, which may be accounted for. We have had, till within this year or two, a destructive blast that has equally affected the tall and hardy timber tree with the tender succulent plant: the storm too, no doubt, injured them, their being planted too near each other; and more perhaps than every other cause, their not being attended to with that care that the mother tree was: but with all those disadvantages, the time of producing fruit from the first planting, seems to be much the same, if the dates of the planting and the bearing fruit from the original are exact, which I believe are nearly so. How-

P ever

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ever the tree mentioned in the paper you were pleased to leave with me, that was planted at St. Vincent's, must have fruited much earlier than these at the Guinea*, which, if a fact, must proceed from the greater fertility and richness of the soil of that Island than ours.

As it was at your request I have wrote the above, I will make no apology for the rambling prolix way it is written in.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient and most humble servant,

ROBERT GIBSON.

JOSHUA STEELE, Esq.

* The Guinea is the name of a plantation in Barbados.

P. S.

P. S. The girt of the old tree, which is the same to the first limb that branches off, (to the extremity of which is twenty feet) is five feet six inches ; the length of the trunk to the above limb, two feet. Six inches above the first limb, the trunk divides itself into five large branches which are nearly equal in size to the lowermost, the girt being from two feet eight inches to three feet three inches ; the trunk of the largest and most thriving of the young trees, is in length two feet. The girt at the bottom, two feet six inches. Where the first limb branches off, which is two feet from the bottom, the girt is two feet six inches ; the girt of the limb, one foot two inches. Two feet higher, the tree divides into two limbs : their girt is one foot each. The limbs of the old tree spread near twenty feet each way from the body of the tree.

SIR,

Mr. Moe, mentioned in Mr. Gibson's account, was chief manager on Kendall's and Hallet's, for thirty years, and went from thence to the Guinea, in 1773, as Mr. Walker, the then possessor, had been married to his daughter. Mr. Gibson is the present manager on the Guinea, and was brought up under or with Mr. Moe, and has been intimately connected with him and Mr. Walker, and in the clear knowledge of all these circumstances relating to these trees.

These trees are now growing in several different parts of the Island, propagated from the original at the Guinea.

JOSHUA STEELE.

Barbados,
May 20, 1785.

Mr. MORE.

The

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The Thanks of the Society were given to Mr. GEORGE WILSON, of Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, for a Leaf of the true Cinnamon from Jamaica, presented by him; and for the following Letter on the same subject.

SIR,

I AM sorry I cannot give you a more methodical history of the Cinnamon Tree, as I am afraid my mutilated intelligence will hardly prove satisfactory.— The leaf I gave you, which is certainly the true leaf of the *Laurus Cinnamomi*, I received from Dr. Dancer, an ingenious naturalist and physician, who was settled some years at Bath, in Jamaica, and is lately come over for the recovery of his health: he procured it from one of those plants which were taken by Lord Rodney in the course of the last war, on board a French East-Indiaman, and by him presented to the Governor of Jamaica. The

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Doctor tells me that they thrive very well in that Island, and had blossomed repeatedly, but had not been known to fructify when he came away. He has since been informed they have borne fruit ; so that we have a fair prospect of that valuable plant being in a few years cultivated in most of the West-India islands.—I have the pleasure also to inform you that by the favour of Lord Rodney, and his fortunate capture, the inhabitants of Jamaica are in possession of the true Nankeen Cotton, which bears naturally the colour of Nankeen, and is now manufactured at Glasgow, with a most promising prospect of success.

I am, SIR,

Your very humble servant,

G. WILSON.

Henrietta Street,

Nov. 18, 1785.

Mr. MORE.

R E.